

Page Denied

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Denied

ER 6-8870

4 May 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : CIA Research Board and Scientific Advisory Board

1. On 6 June 1952 the DCI approved PRC action TS 63644 which established the Technical Services Staff within the DD/P under a Director of Research (a full-time Agency employee) and recommended the appointment of [redacted] (a part-time consultant) as Research Chairman with instructions that he form a Research Board of from four to eight members which would advise the Director of Research in formulating the policy of TSS, evaluate and pass on research projects and steer the research effort within the allotted budget.

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2. The Research Board under the chairmanship of [redacted] first met early in 1953 and has continued to meet three or four times yearly. The Board's functions have become more clearly defined with the passage of time, and in March 1954 the DCI approved a recommendation of the Research Chairman that the Research Board should primarily act as an advisory body to express its opinion on technical and research matters, not only to the Chief of TSS in connection with the research program, but also to the Director and his staff and to other senior officers whenever requested. It was also agreed that the Research Board would consider the over-all aspects of the research programs and would concern itself with administrative and organizational work only insofar as it may affect the policy of research.

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3. The Research Board expects to meet during May 1955. The Chairman has suggested that [redacted] Chairman of the Board and Director of Research, Polaroid Corporation, be added to the list of Board members so that the Board would then consist of the following:

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4. Late in 1954 the Office of Defense Mobilization undertook a study of U. S. technological capabilities under the direction of [redacted]

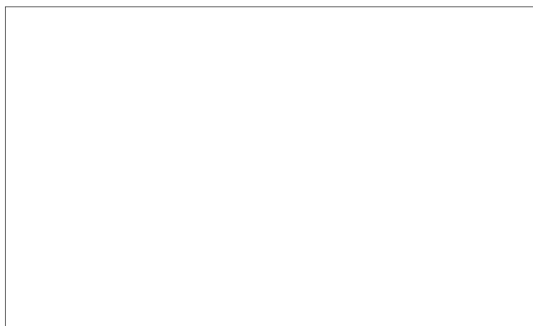
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[redacted] There was established for this purpose the Technological Capabilities Panel under which was established Project 3, known as the Intelligence Panel, under the chairmanship of [redacted], which was devoted to a study of new ways in which science and technology can be applied to the intelligence area with emphasis on possible scientific innovations in the acquisition, processing and evaluation of foreign intelligence.

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5. Early in February of 1955 as the work of the Technological Capabilities Panel approached a conclusion, the Director of Central Intelligence asked [redacted] if he and other members of the Intelligence Panel (together with [redacted] as an additional member) would be willing to serve CIA as a permanent Scientific Advisory Board. It was intended that the Scientific Advisory Board concern itself with work of all parts of the Agency including the Clandestine Services and the intelligence gathering and processing offices. Administratively, it was to be attached to the Special Assistant to the Director for Planning and Coordination and would have direct access to all the senior officers of the Agency. It was intended that the Scientific Advisory Board would become a continuously active organization with a schedule of regular meetings of the full Board in Washington or elsewhere and with one member in rotation being in Washington at all times. As presently established, the Board consists of the following:

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6. It is felt that valuable assistance to the Agency can be given by both the Research Board and the Scientific Advisory Board although these two Boards will provide services of a different nature in somewhat different

manners. The Scientific Advisory Board will concern itself more with day-to-day problems whereas the Research Board could well continue to provide senior over-all guidance on technical and research matters, as may be requested, to the Director of Research of TSS, the Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence, to the senior officers, and the DCI.

7. The attached notice has been prepared for your signature in order to clarify the status of the Research Board and the Scientific Advisory Board. It is satisfactory as to wording to the Chief, TSS/DDP and the AD/SI, although the latter comments (accurately in my view) that the relationship between the two groups is not entirely clear in view of the way they grew up and can only be worked out in practice as we make use of them.


RICHARD M. BISSELL JR.
Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Coordination

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Attachment: (1)
Notice